

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis Introduces New FISMA Legislation: The 'Federal Agency Data Breach Notification Act'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) today introduced legislation to require federal agencies to make public notifications in the event of data breaches involving sensitive information.

The legislation, which would amend the Federal Information Security Management Act, directs the Office of Management and Budget to establish policies, procedures, and standards for agencies to follow if sensitive personal information is lost or stolen.

“Sadly, this legislation is necessary to ensure that federal agencies are taking the proper steps to notify the public, the potential victims, and appropriate government officials that sensitive data may have been compromised,” Davis said. “We have seen too many recent examples when sensitive data has been lost or stolen and agencies have moved too slowly to acknowledge the problem and take steps to limit the potential damage.”

The legislation also requires agencies to establish data breach notification procedures consistent with the OMB’s government-wide policies. And it defines “sensitive personal information” as any information contained in an agency record, as defined in the Privacy Act.

Veterans Affairs Chairman Steve Buyer (R-IN) and Conference Chairman Deborah Pryce (R-OH) are original co-sponsors of the “Federal Agency Data Breach Notification Act.”

Chairman Davis and Chairman Buyer shared concern over the uneven agency responses to data breaches, and Mr. Buyer has agreed to incorporate the Davis reforms in legislation addressing data security at the Veterans Affairs Department.

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